Increase in border infiltration into NES

2827. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cross border infiltration into North Eastern States is increasing for last six years;

(b) if so, the details year-wise;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to control the infiltration;

(d) whether there is any request from any of the North East State Government's to take up the matter with the neighbouring country at the highest level; and

(e) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of illegal immigration/cross border infiltration from Bangladesh into India. However, as this activity takes place clandestinely no specific details about the magnitude of this illegal infiltration into India are available.

(c) The check illegal infiltration from Bangladesh, Government has taken up various measures to curb illegal infiltration into the country, which inter alia include strengthening of BSF and equipping them with modern and sophisticated equipment/gadgets; raising of additional battalions of BSF; reduction of gaps between border outposts; intensification of patrolling; accelerated programme of construction of border roads and border fencing; provision of surveillance equipment, etc. State Governments and Union Territories have also been directed to enforce the provision of Foreigners Act strictly.

(d) and (e) The Government has regularly taken up this issue with the Government of Bangladesh at various fora.

Ban on child labour

2828. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employment of children under 14 years of age as domestic servants and workers would be banned in eateries from October, 10, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of child labour in the country, sector-wise;

(d) the reasons for continuance of child labour and the steps taken/ proposed to be taken to rehabilitate the working children;

(e) whether there is any plan to provide free and compulsory education to the working children under 14, as per the constitutional obligation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986, the Government has issued a notification of its intention to prohibit employment of children in the following two Occupations w.e.f. October 10, 2006:

(i) Employment of Children as domestic workers or servants;

(ii) Employment of children in dhabas (road-side eateries), restaurants, hotels, motels; tea-shops, resorts, spas or other recreational centers.

(c) As per Census 2001, the number of working children in the country is 1.26 crore. Sector-wise figures on working children are not maintained by the Ministry;

(d) Child Labour is a complex socio-economic problem, which needs sustained efforts over a long period of time. Considering the nature and magnitude of the problem, a gradual, progressive and sequential approach has been adopted to withdraw and rehabilitate child labour. In this direction, Government will be implementing the scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in 250 districts of 20 states in the country during the Xth Plan period. Under the scheme, children withdrawn from work are put into the Special Schools where these children are provided basic education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care in order to prepare them to be mainstreamed into formal schooling system.

(e) and (f) Under Sarva Shiksa Abhiyan (SSA), Government aims to cover all out of school children in the age group of 6-14 for free education. In addition,. for working children in scheduled hazardous occupations/processes in the age group of 9-14 years, Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project Scheme for free education as indicated in (d) above.

Increased unemployment in rural areas

2829. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unemployment and under employment are on the increase in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken to reach the benefits of globalization to rural areas, in order to generate employment opportunities there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRICHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation. Last such survey for which results are available pertains to the year 1999-2000. As per these surveys, unemployment rate in the rural areas on current daily status basis was around 5.6% in 1993-94 and 7.2% in 1999-2000.

(b) Economy not growing at the intended rate and increase in Labour force during the period 1994-2000 were some of the reasons.

(c) The Tenth Plan focused on providing gainful high quality employment to the additions to the labour force with special emphasis on rapid growth of labour intensive sectors such as, agriculture, irrigation, agro-forestry, small and medium enterprises, information communication technology, tourism etc. This will help generate sufficient employment opportunities in rural areas also.